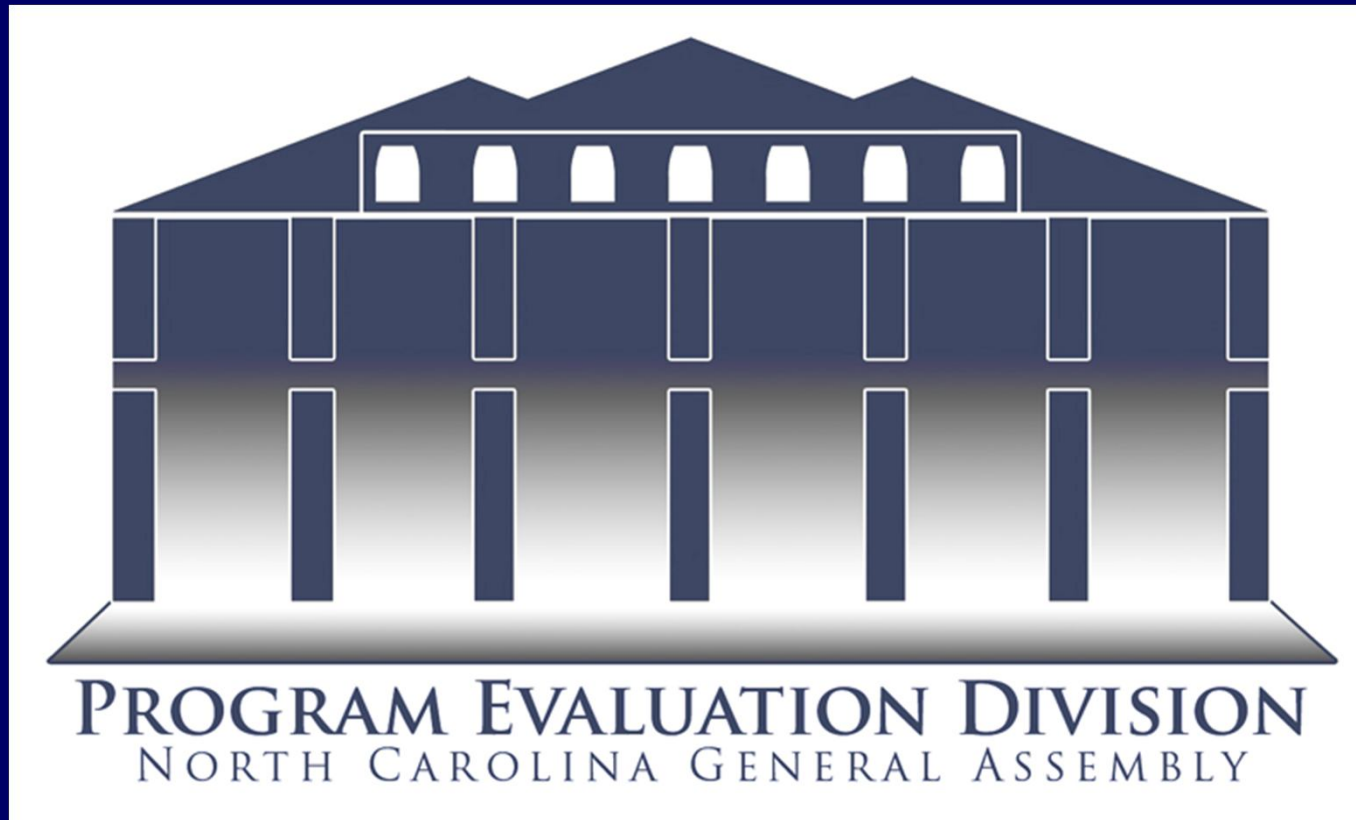




North Carolina Accountability Report (NCAR)

December 15, 2010



North Carolina Accountability Report

Driver Education in Public Schools

A presentation to the
Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee

December 15, 2010

Larry Yates, Principal Program Evaluator

North Carolina Accountability Report Compared to a Program Evaluation

PROGRAM **RATING**

- ✓ Criteria: Are accountability elements evident?
- ✓ Like a credit rating
- ✓ Determines degree of investment risk
- ✓ Relies upon program to provide evidence



PROGRAM **EVALUATION**

- ✓ Criteria: What are the research questions?
- ✓ Rigorous methodology to provide answers
- ✓ Data intensive, heavy field work
- ✓ Provides recommendations



Driver Education Program in Public Schools

NCAR Rating:
Results Not Demonstrated



NCAR Identified Three Main Issues

- There is no approved standardized driver education curriculum
- Program design and operation are delegated to Local Education Agencies
- DPI conducts no technical oversight and only limited cost analysis

Option 1. Strengthen Statutes

- Require DPI to report on implementation of NC Sess. Laws 2010-31, Section 7.12, requiring a standardized curriculum
- Require program performance measures
- Seek cost-effective teaching methods
- Create dedicated funding streams for Driver Education
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and State Superintendent

Option 2. Include Proposal for Full Evaluation for Consideration in 2011-2013 Program Evaluation Division Work Plan

- Determine the most cost-effective delivery method
- Examine alternatives to classroom training
- Review programs in other states
- Compare outcomes among program completers with students who did not participate

Additional Options

Pending additional assessment, the following actions could be taken

- Eliminate state funding for the Driver Education Program
- Establish a funding stream more closely related to driver responsibility than the existing appropriation from the Highway Fund

QUESTIONS?



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